

STATE SENATOR • MARTHA G. SCOTT • 2ND DISTRICT

Scott Press Release

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SENATOR SCOTT GRADUATES FROM FOREIGN POLICY INSTITUTE A Program of the Center for Women Policy Studies in Washington, DC

(LANSING) – State Senator Martha G. Scott, recognized as a national leader on women’s issues, is a graduate of the Class of 2005 of the Center for Women Policy Studies’ *Foreign Policy Institute for State Legislators*. The *Institute* is the first in the United States to focus specifically on preparing state legislators as policy leaders in U.S. foreign policy on women’s human rights. Sen. Scott attended the *Institute* July 9 - 14, 2005 in Washington, DC.

“I have accomplished my goal – to increase my knowledge of United States foreign assistance programs and the impact of foreign policy decisions on women and girls worldwide – and now can add these issues to my own portfolio,” said Sen. Scott. “This will expand my ability to be an advocate for foreign policy that implements the principles of the Cairo International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action and the Beijing Platform,” she added.

The fifteen graduates of the Class of 2005 are state legislators – representing thirteen different and diverse states – who share a commitment to women’s human rights and are involved with the Center for Women Policy Studies’ *Contract with Women of the USA State Legislators Initiative*. The *Institute*’s curriculum addresses many of the issues that the Center for Women Policy Studies has addressed in the context of domestic policy – reproductive rights and health, the women’s HIV/AIDS epidemic, ending violence against women and girls, combating trafficking of women and girls, ensuring equal educational and employment rights and opportunities, confronting women’s poverty worldwide, and expanding women’s political participation and leadership.

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The prominent and highly respected *Institute* faculty included Charlotte Bunch from the Center for Women's Global Leadership; Celinda Lake of Lake Snell Perry Mermin & Associates Inc.; the Honorable Shirley E. Barnes, former U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Madagascar; Sutapa Basu of the University of Washington Women's Center; Carmen Lomellin of the Organization of American States' Inter-American Commission of Women; Wenchi Yu Perkins of Vital Voices Global Partnership; Sima Wali of Refugee Women in Development; Zieba Shorish-Shamley from the Women's Alliance for Peace and Human Rights in Afghanistan; Ambassador Swanee Hunt of Inclusive Security: Women Waging Peace; Sarah Martin of Refugees International; Parvina Nadjibulla with the United Methodist Church's United Nations Office; Pamela Sparr of InterAction; Marceline White from Development and Training Services Inc.; June Zeitlin with the Women's Environment and Development Organization; Sarah Kambou from the International Center for Research on Women; Jodi Jacobson with the Center for Health and Gender Equity; Sandra L. Thurman of the International AIDS Trust; Kristin Haffert from the National Democratic Institute; Zambian Ambassador Inonge Mbikusita-Lewanika; Anu Kumar of Ipas; Yolonda Richardson with the Centre for Development and Population Activities; Jael Silliman from the Ford Foundation; Johanna Mendelson-Forman of the United Nations Foundation; Vivian Lowery Derryck with the Academy for Educational Development; Michael Edwards from the Ford Foundation; Kristin Poore of Citizens for Global Solutions; and women Ambassadors to the United States from the Republic of Angola, South Africa, Belize, and Uganda.

Participants also had meetings with key members of the U.S. foreign policy establishment at the U.S. Department of State, including: Director of Intergovernmental Affairs Portia Palmer; Senior Coordinator for International Women's Issues Charlotte Ponticelli; Ambassador Richard A. Boucher, former Assistant Secretary and Spokesman for the Bureau of Public Affairs; Assistant U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator Mark Dybul, MD; and Ambassador John R. Miller, the Director of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons.

"Participation in the *Institute* helps concerned state legislators to take on a global vision and global leadership to improve the lives of women and girls worldwide as well as in their own states and in our nation," said Center President Leslie R. Wolfe.

Founded in 1972, the Center for Women Policy Studies is a national, nonprofit, multiethnic feminist policy research and advocacy institution in Washington, DC. The Center identifies and addresses cutting-edge issues that have a significant impact on women and girls.